

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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FOLLOWING GENEVA 5819 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN JUL 14,
1977 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, UN, EGEN, HABITAT

SUBJECT: 63RD ECOSOC: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (ITEM 10)

1. SUMMARY. US DEL STRONGLY RECOMMENDS SUPPORT OF
THE COMPROMISE POINTS NEGOTIATED BY THE WORKING GROUP
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, AND SEEKS INSTRUCTIONS AUTHORIZING
IT TO TAKE THIS POSITION. DISCUSSIONS WILL RECONVENE
MONDAY MORNING, JULY 18. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER EXTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS LASTING OVER ONE WEEK,
THE WORKING GROUP HAS PUT TOGETHER THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
OF A PACKAGE WHICH IS RECOGNIZED AS THE ONLY APPARENT
BASIS FOR COMPROMISE (SEE PARA 8). THE WORKING GROUP
WILL RECONVENE MON MONDAY, JULY 18, TO HEAR GOVERNMENT
DSITO IT AND TO MERGE THESE ELEMENTS WITH THE LONG
VERSION OF THE RESOLUTION, I.E., THE HABITAT CONFERENCE
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REPORT ANNEX I, WITH AMENDMENTS.

3. THE PROPOSALS REPRESENT THE CONSENSUS VIEW THAT
WHEN POLISHED AND JOINED WITH THE FULL RESOLUTION TEXT
THIS IS THE ONLY COMPROMISE OBTAINABLE. IT OBVIOUSLY
DOES NOT MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY NOR MEAN THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS
WILL WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT THIS TEXT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT

SOME (SUCH AS FRANCE OF JAPAN) MAY NOT APPROVE OF IT WHEN IT IS REVIEWED ON MONDAY; IN THE PLENARY OF THE AD HOC SESSION OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS MEETING; IN ECOSOC PLENARY; OR EVEN AT THE 32ND UNGA. (KITCHEN CONVERSATION WITH THE USSR INDICATE THAT THEY WILL GO ALONG WITH IT.) THE COMPROMISE HAS, HOWEVER, THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE G-77, THE CANADIANS/SWEDES AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE ESA SUPPORTERS AND THAT OF THE US DEL, WHICH PLAYED AN ACTIVE AND POSITIVE ROLE IN ITS FORMULATION. AMB YOUNG AND AMB WELLS ARE BOTH PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS.

4. AS IN THE NATURE OF COMPROMISE, EACH OF THE PRINCIPALS CAN FIND REWARD IN SOME ASPECT OF THE AGREEMENT. FROM THE VANTAGE POINT OF THOSE WHO WANTED: (A) A UNEP SOLUTION (I.E., A SECRETARIAT INTEGRATED WITH UNEP - THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODY BE THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF UNEP - THE LOCATION, NAIROBI) -- THEY GOT NAIROBI; (B) ESA (I.E., A SECRETARIAT PART OF ESA -- A CREATURE OF ECOSOC, AND AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODY REPORTING TO ECOSOC - NEW YORK) - THEY GOT A CREATURE OF ECOSOC, ADMITTEDLY ONE WHICH REPORTS THROUGH ECOSOC TO THE GA; (C) A COMPLETELY NEW AGENCY (NEW INDEPENDENT SECRETARIAT - INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODY REPORTING ONLY TO THE GA - VIENNA) THEY GOT AN INDEPENDENT SECRETARIAT. (FYI. THE QUESTION OF THE RANK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS A STANDOFF AT THIS JUNCTURE. END FYI.)
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5. ALL OF THE DECISIONS ARE HEAVILY QUALIFIED WITH REFERENCE TO THE RESULTS OF RESTRUCTURING; THIS INCLUDES THE RELATIONSHIPS TO OTHER UN BODIES, THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODY AND THE APPROPRIATE RANK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

6. WHILE SOME MIGHT SAY THE PROPOSED ACTION REFLECTS A DEFERENCE OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE FINAL DECISION, THIS IS REALISTICALLY THE ONLY SENSIBLE COURSE, IF AS THE US DOES, ONE TAKES RESTRUCTURING SERIOUSLY.

7. RECOMMENDATION: THE US DEL STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE COMPROMISE POSITION AND WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS ASAP WHICH AUTHORIZE OUR SO INDICATING THIS VIEW TO OTHER DELS, IF THE DEPT AGREES. ON THIS BASIS WE WOULD ALSO SUGGEST THE DEPT CONSIDER REQUESTING EMBASSIES IN TOKYO, PARIS, OTTAWA, LONDON TO SO ADVISE THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS.

8. BEGIN TEXT

COMPONENTS OF THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS COMPROMISE

"1. DECIDES THAT ECOSOC SHOULD ESTABLISH A COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WHICH WILL HAVE 58 MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS ON THE FOLLOWING BASIS:

(GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION TO BE DECIDED UPON LATER)

DECIDES THAT THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WILL INTER ALIA INCLUDE THE RESPONSIBILITIES AT PRESENT EXERCISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING.

DECIDES FURTHER THAT THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS SHOULD HAVE THE FOLLOWING MAIN OBJECTIVES:

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((A) TO (D) OF PARAGRAPH 13 OF THE ANNEX OF THE REPORT OF THE HABITAT CONFERENCE)

DECIDES THAT THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WILL REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL.

DECIDES THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SHOULD NAME, AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL, TO BE DECIDED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS 32ND SESSION, AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WHO SHALL REPORT TO HIM.

DECIDES THAT IN THE LIGHT OF THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING TO THE 32ND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD CONSIDER PROVIDING ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE WHICH MAY BE NECESSARY IN RESPEVO OF THE STRUCTURAL RELATIONSHIP OF THE HABITAT CENTRE TO OTHER ORGANS OR UNITS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

2. HABITAT, THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS - A SMALL AND EFFECTIVE HABITAT SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN THE UNITED NATIONS TO SERVE AS A FOCAL POINT FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ACTION AND CO-ORDINATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO BE NAMED HABITAT, THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. IT SHOULD BE COMPOSED OF:

(A) THE CENTRE FOR HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS;

(B) THE APPROPRIATE SECTION OF THE DIVISION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE POSTS REQUIRED BY UNEP TO EXERCISE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS.

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MENTS PLANNING;

(C) THE UNITED NATIONS HABITAT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS FOUNDATION;

(D) AS APPROPRIATE, SELECTED POSTS AND ASSOCIATED RESOURCES
FROM RELEVANT PARTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
AFFAIRS.

3. CO-OPERATION WITH UNEP - THERE SHOULD BE VERY CLOSE LINKS
BETWEEN THE HABITAT CENTRE AND THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE LOCATION OF THE HABITAT
CENTRE SHOULD BE IN NAIROBI.

4. THE UNITED NATIONS HABITAT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS FOUNDATION
- A NEW OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH SHOULD BE ADDED TO THE DRAFT RESO-
LUTION AS FOLLOWS:

"DECIDES THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HABITAT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
FOUNDATION SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS SECRETARIAT AND SHALL HAVE THE SAME TERMS
OF REFERENCE AS SET OUT IN THE ANNEX TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
3327 (XXIX) WHICH ESTABLISHED THE FOUNDATION WITH APPROPRIATE
AMENDMENTS TO REFLECT THE NEW RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMISSION
ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS."

(FYI: THE PURPOSE OF THIS LAST LANGUAGE IS TO
ASSURE RETENTION OF THE CAPACITY OF THE FOUNDATION
TO RECEIVE FOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND CARRY OUT
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES. END FYI.)

END TEXT. VANDEN HEUVEL UNQUOTE VANCE

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